

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat, comprising:
a backing; and
a number of protruding artificial grass blades divided into rows and connected thereto, ~~characterized in that the~~a mutual distance between successive blades in a row ~~is~~being substantially equal to the distance between adjacent rows and ~~amounts~~amounting to at least 10 mm.

2. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distance between the blades and the row spacing amount to at least 13 mm, ~~and preferably to at least 16 mm.~~

3. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backing and the blades are formed and mutually connected by weaving.

4. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the backing is a fabric and the blades are connected thereto by tufting.

5. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blades are formed from a continuous fibre.

6. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one support loop protruding less far from the backing is formed in each case between successive blades.

7. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support loops are formed outside the row of blades.

8. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support loops are formed from another fibre material than the blades.

9. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed ~~in any of the claims 6-8~~ claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the blades and/or and the support loops are formed from a relatively thick or heavy fibre material.

10. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf mat as claimed ~~in any of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blades are formed from monofilament fibre.

11. (Currently Amended) Artificial turf field, comprising an artificial turf mat as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1 and a layer of loose filling material arranged thereon, the thickness of which is less than the length of the artificial grass blades.

12. (Currently Amended) Method for forming an artificial turf mat, comprising: ~~of~~
supplying a backing material,
supplying an artificial turf material,
forming a backing from the backing material, and
connecting blades of the artificial turf material divided into rows to the backing, ~~characterized in that the blades are connected to the backing~~ such that their mutual spacing in a row is substantially equal to the mutual distance between adjacent rows and amounts to at least 10 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blades are connected to the backing at a mutual distance and a row spacing of at least 13 mm, ~~and preferably at least 16 mm.~~

14. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 12~~-or~~
~~13, characterized in that~~wherein the backing is formed by
weaving the backing material, and the artificial turf material
is co-woven to form the blades.

15. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 12~~-or~~
~~13, characterized in that~~wherein the backing material is
formed into a fabric and the blades are connected to the
fabric by tufting.

16. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 15,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the fabric is guided along a
series of reciprocally moveable tufting needles placed
adjacently of each other at the row distance, and the speed of
forward movement of the fabric and the stroke speed of the
tufting needles are adjusted to each other such that between
successive strokes of the tufting needles the fabric is
displaced substantially through the row distance.

17. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 16,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the fabric is stopped after each
displacement through the row distance.

18. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in~~any of the~~
~~claims 15-17~~claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the blades
are formed from a continuous fibre.

19. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one support loop is tufted into a fabric between successive blades, which support loop is pressed less far through the fabric than the adjacent blades.

20. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the support loops are formed outside the row of blades.

21. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support loops are formed from another fibre material and connected to the fabric by another set of tufting needles than the blades.

22. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the claims 19-21~~ claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the blades and/or the support loops are formed from a relatively thick or heavy fibre material.

23. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the claims 12-22~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the artificial turf material ~~comprises~~ includes monofilament fibres.

24. (Currently Amended) Method for forming an artificial turf field by arranging on a ground an artificial turf mat as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1-10~~claim 1, and spreading thereover a layer of loose filling material to a thickness which is less than the length of the artificial grass blades.